



## BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION

January 14, 2013

5:30 p.m., 6<sup>th</sup> Floor OBM Conference Room  
2 Civic Center Plaza, El Paso, TX

### MINUTES

Members Present: 7

David Turner, James Tolbert, Theresa Welch Fordham, Deanna De La Cruz, Alisa Jorgensen, Jennifer Barr-Ardovino, Frederick Caldwell

Members Absent: 1

Ralph Cloud,

Member Vacancies: 1

Staff Present: Nanette Smejkal, Parks and Recreation Director, Tracy Novak, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director, Liza Ramirez-Tobias, Capital Assets Manager, Marci Tuck, Open Space, Trails and Parks Coordinator, Steve Lunsford, General Services Supervisor, Maggie Binkley, Administrative Assistant

1. Agenda Item #1. Meeting Called to Order  
Dave Turner, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.
2. Agenda Item #2. Approval of Minutes: November 12, 2012  
Lisa Ramirez-Tobias, Capital Assets Manager, requested a correction to Agenda Item #5: vote results were five (5) Ayes, one (1) Nay (Theresa Welch Fordham), Motion carried.  
  
Motion by James Tolbert to approve minutes with the correction. Second by Frederick Caldwell.  
Motion carried (unanimous).
3. Agenda Item #3. Call to the Public (for items not on the agenda)  
None
4. Agenda Item #4. Parks and Recreation Calendar and Newsletter  
Nanette Smejkal, Parks and Recreation Director, highlighted the calendar and newsletter included in the agenda packet. She reported the Senior Games begin in March and encouraged those with New Year's resolutions to get fit with Parks and Recreation.  
  
Theresa Welch Fordham mentioned that there was a format change at KHRO, and wondered if it would impact the Parks and Recreation Department weekly radio show. Staff will advise Wayne Thornton, Public Relations Coordinator.
5. Agenda Item #5. Presentation: FY12 "Excellence in Park Design" – Tropicana Homes for Mesquite Trails #6 Linear Trail

Marci Tuck, Open Space, Trails and Parks Coordinator, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Mesquite Trails #6 Linear Trail.

*Deanna De La Cruz arrived at 5:40 p.m.*

On behalf of Tropicana Homes, Nahed Khouri, Land Development Consultant, and Vanessa Reyes accepted the FY12 Excellence in Park Design Award. Photos of presentation and board members occurred.

6. Agenda Item #8. Discussion and Action: Bond Project Three Year Plan  
Nanette Smejkal, Parks and Recreation Director, reviewed staff recommendations for the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space bond project initial three year roll out. Focus is on bid-ready projects, land acquisitions, and signature projects including aquatics, sports fields and 90 acre regional park.

Discussion ensued on the Bond Oversight Advisory Committee, Chelsea Pool relocation, utility corridors, open space land acquisitions, Pavo Real pool enclosure, trail connectivity and trailhead parking areas.

Motion by James Tolbert to approve. Second by Jennifer Barr-Ardovino. Motion carried (unanimous).

7. Agenda Item #6. Discussion and Action: Use of 1.86 acres Tom Lea Park for El Paso Independent School District Parking Lot and ROTC Building

Liza Ramirez-Tobias, Capital Assets Manager, presented a PowerPoint presentation on the location. She reported that a lease expired 1968. The park land is being used by El Paso High School for parking and an ROTC facility. The City Council will hold the public hearing on January 29, 2013.

Motion by Jennifer Barr-Ardovino to approve the use of park land as described in the overview by El Paso Independent School District with the recommendation that a trail to upper Tom Lea be developed. Second by James Tolbert. Motion carried (unanimous).

8. Agenda Item #8. Discussion and Action: Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update (2012 – 2022)  
Marci Tuck, Open Space, Trails and Parks Coordinator, reviewed the updated Master Plan and a memorandum included in agenda packet that highlighted changes since the December distribution. She reported that the City Plan Commission reviewed the Master Plan on January 10, 2013 with a recommendation to City Council for approval.

Discussion ensued.

Steve Lunsford, General Services Supervisor, commented that for proper maintenance using the national funding benchmarks (cost per acre) the plan should not reflect an annual cost benefit analysis or evaluation of the General Services Department.

Discussion ensued on the measurement of service of park maintenance and accountability with suggested revisions and edits. Jim Tolbert stated he would not support approval of the Master Plan if references to General Services on pages 118 and 130 were not deleted. Alisa Jorgensen stated that she thought annual evaluations were important and that rewording could take place.

Motion by Jennifer Barr-Ardovino to request that General Services return to the Board of Parks and Recreation monthly meetings. Second by Frederick Caldwell. Motion carried (unanimous).

Motion by Alisa Jorgensen to recommend approval of the Master Plan to City Council with the following changes:

- a) Page 93, insert new recommendation #9. “City swim teams and privately run swim teams – Independent teams and clubs continue to provide many of the competitive swimming opportunities throughout the city. The Parks and Recreation Department should continue to coordinate with private swim teams and clubs to ensure that adequate swimming opportunities are provided citywide, and that youth have access to competitive swimming if they so desire. Additional aquatic facilities with sufficient lanes will ease parent concerns over transporting across the city to train.”
- b) Page 130, delete last sentence in VI 2. ~~“Confirm that funding designated for parks and recreation maintenance is expended for that purpose and not being used to supplement maintenance of non-park and recreation facilities.”~~
- c) Correct miscellaneous typographical errors noted.

Second by Deanna De La Cruz. Motion carried - Five (5) Ayes, one (1) Nay (James Tolbert), one (1) Abstain (Jennifer Barr-Ardovino).

9. Agenda Item #9. Discussion and Action: Subcommittee Assignments (as needed)  
None

11. Agenda Item #11. Discussion: Identify Items for Future Agendas

- Board Annual Calendar of Agenda Items
- Senior Center Staff Training Update
- Community Gardens Update
- Water Conservation Goals

12. Agenda Item #12. Adjournment.  
Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.